United Nations S/2011/501

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 August 2011

Original: English

Letter dated 8 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 7 August 2011, from His Excellency Walid Moualem, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of the Syrian Arab Republic, which represents the position of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the presidential statement issued by the Security Council on 3 August 2011 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

11-44791 (E) 090811 090811

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 8 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Syrian Arab Republic

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants

I regret to say that certain members of the Security Council, in the statement issued by that body, based its position on information that was taken from only one side, without giving the consideration that is particularly due in the light of the current situation in Syria to the facts and information provided by the Syrian State, which is the party with primary and ultimate responsibility and concern for the security and stability of the Syrian people and the integrity of its land and institutions.

There are numerous exaggerations in the depiction of current events in Syria, and the reality of what is taking place on the ground is magnified with provocative and alarmist intent. The number of casualties is similarly exaggerated, while the damage and human and material losses that are being inflicted on Syria through the murderous and destructive acts of armed gangs are deliberately ignored. That regrettable disregard for the facts on the ground, which informed the Security Council statement, is an extremely negative factor in respect of Syrian interests, because it encourages the armed gangs of wreckers to continue to use weapons and carry out acts of murder and destruction, thereby considerably hindering the chances of preserving the fundamental interests of the country.

As you are aware, President Bashar Al-Assad, in his statement of 20 June 2011, set out a package of significant reforms concerning a number of aspects of public life in Syria and, in particular, the political aspect, in the laws governing parties and general elections. Those two laws make important provisions that respond to the demands of the people and lay the foundations for political plurality and democracy. It has already been announced that general elections will be held before the end of 2011 and that political affairs will be decided through the ballot box.

I have referred above to just a few of the plans and ideas that were announced by President Al-Assad in the aforementioned statement. The Syrian leadership continues to believe that national dialogue is the best way to resolve the crisis through which the country is passing. However, the difficulty of conducting that dialogue, which is caused by the negativity of the opposition stance, will not divert us from moving along the path of the reform which we desire; we will not allow subversion and conspiracies against the interests of Syria to prevent us continuing towards our goal.

We believe that, at this crucial point for Syria, it behoves the international community to promote peace and the end of acts of destruction, and to encourage the steps towards reform that are being taken. Sufficient time must be allowed for those reforms to bear fruit, rather than encouragement being provided for an escalation of the unrest and violence. It is with the greatest regret that we say that the statements that are being issued by certain members of the Security Council,

which are intended to increase pressure on Syria, in fact merely serve to exacerbate the disturbances and violence, which in no way serves the interests of Syria.

(*Signed*) Walid **Al-Moualem**
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of the Syrian Arab Republic